US Army Corps of Engineers®
New York District

SOUTH RIVER, RARITAN RIVER BASIN, NJ

Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration

FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION: The project area is located within the lower Raritan Basin in Middlesex County, New Jersey. The South River is the first major tributary of the Raritan River, located approximately 8.3 miles upstream of the Raritan River's mouth at Raritan Bay. The South River is tidally controlled from its mouth upstream to Duhernal Lake Dam. Fluvial conditions prevail above the dam. The area is prone to imminent and severe flooding from hurricanes and other storms, with significant flooding occurring in March 1962, May 1968, August and September 1971, April 1984, December 1992, March 1993. For example, the March '93 northeaster (a 25-year) event resulted in approximately $17 million in damages (2001 dollars) and closed the highway bridge connecting the Boroughs of South River and Sayreville. Based on coordination with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), county and local interests, it was determined that there are no widespread flooding problems in the South River watershed upstream of the Duhernal Lake dam. Consequently, the study area focused on river reaches below the dam, specifically flood-prone areas within the Boroughs of South River and Sayreville, the Township of Old Bridge, and the Historic Village of Old Bridge (located within the Township of East Brunswick). This portion of South River also includes the areas of greatest ecological degradation (and greatest potential for ecosystem restoration).

AUTHORIZATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The study is authorized by a U.S. House of Representatives resolution dated 13 May 1993. A feasibility report, completed in September 2002, recommended hurricane and storm damage (HSD) protection from a 500-year event and ecosystem restoration of 379.3 acres of degraded wetlands. The HSD protection component of the plan consists of a storm surge barrier spanning the South River for a length of 320 feet, with a clear opening of 80 feet, two combined levees (10,712 feet long)/floodwalls (1,655 feet long) constructed along the east and west bank of the South River in the boroughs of Sayreville and South River, and interior drainage facilities (i.e., pump stations, outlets, etc.). The ecosystem restoration consists of returning 379.3 acres of *Phragmites* wetlands to wetland forest, upland forest, low emergent marsh, mudflat, and open water. The cost of the overall plan is $103,268,200 ($55,171,900 for HSD protection/$48,096,300 ecosystem restoration), with a benefit-to-cost ratio of 2.2 to 1.

STATUS: The feasibility report was completed in September 2002. A record of Decision (ROD) is expected by the end of summer 2004. Detailed design of the first construction element of the project will begin once a cost-sharing agreement is signed with the non-Federal sponsor (NJDEP).

PROJECT COST:

Estimated Federal Cost	$67,124,300
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	$36,143,900
Total	$103,268,200

CONTACT: Mr. Joseph Forcina, PE, Project Manager
mailto: Joseph.Forcina@usace.army.mil (tel: 212-264-0554)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278-0090
http://www.usace.army.mil
District Area: NJ #6, Congressional Member: Frank Pallone, Jr. Y